

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-11 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8390

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4477

BEIRUT FOR RTDO

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BMPE BEXP EIND EAGR ENRG KU

SUBJ: SYNTHETIC FOOD FACTORY - KUWAIT INVESTORS PUSH AHEAD

REF: A) KUWAIT 3400; B) KUWAIT 3515; C) KUWAIT A-132, 10/20/73;

D) USDOC 15245; E) USDOC 15960

1. NEITHER EMBASSY NOR GHAZI AL-NAFISI HAS HEARD FROM EXXON/NESTLE (SEE REFS D AND E) OR ANY OTHER COMPANY OWNING RIGHTS TO FOOD-FROM-HYDROCARBON TECHNOLOGY.

2. IN RECENT WEEKS, NAFISI AND INVESTORS HE REPRESENTS HAVE TAKEN SOME CONCRETE STEPS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING SUCH A FACTORY IN KUWAIT. AFTER MEETING WITH LUMMUS REP, L.G. STEPHENSON, WHO WAS ORIGINALLY INFORMED BY EMBASSY OF THIS PROJECT, NAFISI HAS COMMISSIONED LUMMUS CORP TO DO A FEASIBILITY AND MARKET STUDY. LUMMUS IS ALSO SEARCHING FOR AN INTERESTED COMPANY HAVING RIGHTS TO THE TECHNOLOGY FOR POSSIBLE COLLABORATION ON THE PROJECT.

3. ALTHOUGH NAFISI AND HIS TECHNICAL ADVISOR JOHN THOMAS WERE ORIGINALLY LOOKING FOR A GAS-BASED TECHNOLOGY, WE BELIEVE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LUMMUS STUDY MAY CAUSE THEM TO CONSIDER USING PETROLEUM IN THE

OPERATION, SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THOSE TECHNOLOGIES ARE AT HIGHER STATE OF ADVANCEMENT.

4. IN ANY CASE IF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY SHOWS THIS IS A PRACTICAL UNDERTAKING FOR KUWAIT, NAFISI WILL PRESENT THE PLAN TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FOR THE NECESSARY LICENSE PRIOR TO BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION OR ISSUING A PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION.

5. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THE RELUCTANCE MANY US FIRMS TAKE A MINORITY POSITION ON SUCH VENTURES, OUR RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THIS REQUIREMENT MAY BE WAIVED IF PROJECT APPEARS SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE TO KUWAITI INVESTORS, SO THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE A DETERRENT TO US FIRMS. IN FACT, THE ONLY REASON EQUITY ASKED FOR AT ALL IS TO INSURE GOOD PERFORMANCE AND INDICATE TO GOK AND PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS THAT SOPHISTICATED WESTERN CORPORATIONS BELIEVE IN THE PROJECT'S FEASIBILITY.

6. WE REQUEST COMMERCE AGAIN CONTACT EXXON AS WELL AS THE SEVERAL US CORPORATIONS HAVING AN OIL-BASED TECHNOLOGY FOR FOOD PRODUCTION (WE UNDERSTAND PHILLIPS, AMOCO, AND MONSANTO MAY HAVE SUCH PROGRAMS) AND INFORM US OF THE RESPONSE.
INTERESTED COMPANIES SHOULD WRITE
GHAZI NAFISI, KUWAIT, PO BOX 3389 SAFAT, OR BETTER TELEX: CENTERCO, KUWAIT.

7. COMMENT: AS STATED PREVIOUSLY THIS PROJECT ENJOYS BACKING OF SOME VERY INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE AND WITH RIGHT WESTERN COMPANIES IN TOW COULD WELL WIN GOK SUPPORT. UNFORTUNATELY, EXCEPT FOR LUMMUS INTEREST, EMBASSY HAS BEEN, THUS FAR, UNABLE TO BE OF MUCH ASSISTANCE TO NAFISI.
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